

East Jemez Resources Council
January 13, 2005

There was no Cultural Resources Subcommittee report but Bob Parmenter reported that the VCNP was funding archeological work on the Preserve this summer. This will be an effort to try and gather information on the past history and use of the site.

The VCNP is also continuing to work towards the establishment of a multi-agency archeological center in Los Alamos.

Craig Martin reported that local archeologists are planning for the Pecos Conference to be held in Los Alamos in early August.

Los Alamos County is also pushing for the establishment of a local Cerro Grande Archive with the Historical Society acting as curator.

Pajarito Plateau Watershed Partnership Report – Craig Martin

Craig discussed several collaborative projects between the PPWP, Los Alamos County, and the Volunteer Task Force. The VTF has generated over 7,000 volunteers working for over 16,000 hours and raised over \$100,000.

The Pueblo Canyon Reforestation Project has planted around 125,000 seedling trees since 2000 with around 45% survival. Major sources of mortality include drought and herbivory.

Riparian restoration activities in North Pueblo Canyon have had some success in rerouting the channel and establishing seedling trees despite the drought.

Los Alamos Middle Schools have been conducting trail improvement projects.

Over 40 acres have been treated with seed balls - small clay balls mixed with plant seeds and dispersed. Over 200,000 seed balls have been made and applied by school kids and seniors. Monitoring shows no significant difference in plant abundance on areas treated with seed balls between 2003 and 2004. However, the technique seems to have worked well for establishing wildflowers.

Seed balls were also used in conjunction with lop and scatter treatments in piñon-juniper areas killed by bark beetle.

VTF members have mapped stream channel crossings in Rendija and North Pueblo Canyons. Some channel cross sections from Rendija Canyon show approximately 20 inches of fill since Spring 2003.

A County Stormwater Management effort has identified that most stormwater in Upper Pueblo Canyon is not coming from burned areas. Mitigation actions need to be implemented for more urban areas with continued restoration of open space and development of a stormwater management plan.

The wastewater treatment plant outfall will be moved approximately 0.5 miles upstream in Pueblo Canyon to increase the length of the riparian wetland and hopefully provide a greater capacity to control floodwater.

The County hired a college student to GPS the drainage patterns across the townsite. Some of the greatest impacts to Pueblo Canyon are from the Western Area, which drains into Acid Canyon, and Schoolhouse Canyon, which has a large percentage of impermeable surfaces. There are plans to develop a stormwater control demonstration project using water from the roof of the aquatic center.

More information on these projects can be found at www.ppwatershed.org

Regional Bark Beetle Activity – Deb Allen-Reid

Deb gave an excellent presentation on the results of this Fall's bark beetle survey. The presentation emphasized that piñon mortality in New Mexico has dropped from a high of almost 800,000 acres in 2003 to just over 100,000 acres in 2004. Ponderosa pine mortality in New Mexico has declined from a high of just over 80,000 acres in 2002 to approximately 55,000 acres in 2003 and 2004. 75% of the piñon mortality mapped in both 2003 and 2004 was on tribal and federal lands. Because of the decline in piñon mortality the FS does not plan to survey woodlands in 2005.

The bark beetle activity was brought about primarily by drought and tree overstocking. Late winter snows in 2004 have helped to rehydrate soils and improve tree health. Although bark beetle activity is declining, the FS still promotes management practices that restrict bark beetle activity.

Additional changes from 2003 to 2004 include western spruce budworm activity up from 143,000 acres in 2003 to over 238,000 acres in 2004.

Round Table Discussion – All

Bob Parmenter reported that the VCNP Board of Trustees recently approved a project to collect information to consider a project to introduce Rio Grande Cutthroats to the Preserve. This project is being conducted in collaboration with the NM Game and Fish. Decisions on whether to proceed with a reintroduction project will be made at a later date.

Executive Director Ray Powell authorized \$50,000 for elk management activities and personnel that would also be conducted in collaboration with other agencies.

John Stetson reported that there will be a public scooping meeting for the LANL Supplemental Site Wide Environmental Impact Statement on January 19 at the Pablo Roybal Elementary School in Pojoaque.

Sam Loftin reported that there will be a community Wildfire meeting on April 27 at Fuller Lodge. Also, the annual Jemez Biological Symposium should be coming up later in January or February.

Neil Weber reported that San Ildefonso Pueblo will begin burned area restoration in Mortendad Canyon. This is a two to three year project that will include replanting and reseeding activities. Neil also invited all to the San Ildefonso Feast Day, Sunday, January 23rd.

Craig Martin announced that the County intends to burn slash piles in Pueblo Canyon just below Rim Road later this winter if condition allow.

Final Action: Craig Martin volunteered and was subsequently elected Council chairperson for the upcoming year.

Future Agenda Items identified at this meeting include:

1. A discussion of wildlife corridors
2. Status of LA County fuels mitigation activities.